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U.S.-Soviet Sparring: A Year of Ousters

March 7 The United States tells the Soviet Union that it must reduce the size of the Soviet, Ukrainian and Byelorussian Missions to the United Nations from 275 to 170 over two years, with the first cut of 25 by Oct. 1. The American announcement asserts that the Soviet Union is using the mission for spying.

Aug. 23 Gennadi F. Zakharov, a physicist who is a Soviet employee of the United Nations, is arrested in New York on espionage charges.

Aug. 30 Nicholas S. Daniloff, correspondent for U.S. News & World Report, is arrested in Moscow on espionage charges.

Sept. 12 Mr. Zakharov and Mr. Daniloff are freed from prison in the custody of their embassies.

Sept. 12 The chief Soviet delegate to the United Nations, Aleksandr M. Belonogov, says the Soviet Union has no plans to comply with the Oct. 1 deadline to remove 25 personnel, asserting that the order is illegal.

Sept. 17 The State Department, angered over the continued detention of Mr. Daniloff in Moscow and upset over the Soviet delegate's statement, presents a list of 25 who must leave the United States by Oct. 1 in compliance with the deadline. The United States also tells the Russians that if they retaliate, the United States will move to bring the Soviet and American Embassies to parity.

Sept. 17 The Russians protest, saying the United States has no right to make such an order.

Sept. 29 Mr. Daniloff is allowed to leave the Soviet Union.

Sept. 30 Mr. Zakharov is allowed to leave the United States after pleading no contest to spying charges. Secretary of State George P. Shultz announces a two-week grace period for compliance with the expulsion order.

Oct. 11-12 President Reagan and Mikhail S. Gorbachev, the Soviet leader, meet in Reykjavik, Iceland. The expulsion order is not discussed.

Oct. 13 The Soviet Union is given another week to comply with the expulsion order.

Oct. 15 The last of the 25 Soviet diplomats leave the United States.

Oct. 19 The Soviet Union expels five American diplomats, apparently in retaliation for the ouster of the 25 Soviet diplomats.

Oct. 21 The United States expels five Soviet diplomats in retaliation and says 50 more must leave to bring the size of the American and Soviet diplomatic delegations to parity. This must be done by Nov. 1, Washington says.

Oct. 22 The Soviet Union expels another five Americans, again apparently in retaliation. It says that to have true parity 260 Soviet nationals who work at the American Embassy in Moscow will stop working there.